



## Transport for NSW Media Release

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### PARRAMATTA CBD PREPPED FOR LIGHT RAIL

Innovative design and construction technology have helped to untangle a maze of utilities in Parramatta's CBD ahead of major construction of the Parramatta Light Rail.

Parramatta Light Rail program director Anand Thomas said that following the closure of Parramatta's 'Eat Street' to car traffic in February 2020, approximately 300 utilities have been identified and relocated across the CBD.

"The relocation of utilities in Eat Street, including high-voltage power cables that power the CBD, Sydney water mains, Jemena gas crossings, 500 metres of stormwater pipes and thousands of metres of conduit, is complete," said Mr Thomas.

"We have endeavoured to identify almost all known major utility services under the light rail route. This is a major achievement that enables us to get on with the all-important job of building the network."

The Parramatta Light Rail is being built around pre-existing utilities such as power lines, stormwater drains, underground gas and water pipes, sewerage systems, and critical telecommunications lines.

Transport for NSW conducted its own site investigations and consulted the major utility providers from the very early stages to plan design and construction activities, using augmented reality and digital 3D technology to map more than 300 in-ground services.

Mr Thomas said the works pave the way for the installation of street lights, tree pits and drainage on Eat Street, as well as for the reopening of the famous dining strip for a three-month activation known as 'Eat Street Uncovered'.

"From 1 November 2020, as part of our commitment to the community, construction on Eat Street will cease, hoardings will come down, outdoor dining will be temporarily restored and we will deliver activities and events to attract people to the CBD."

'Elizabeth' the micro tunnelling machine continues to tunnel around 10 metres per day underneath Eat Street, intended to reduce noise and impact compared to standard excavation. Track her progress at [www.parramattalightrail.nsw.gov.au/micro-tunnelling](http://www.parramattalightrail.nsw.gov.au/micro-tunnelling).

The Parramatta Light Rail will connect Westmead to Carlingford via the Parramatta CBD and Camellia, and is expected to open in 2023. Visit [www.parramattalightrail.nsw.gov.au](http://www.parramattalightrail.nsw.gov.au) for more.

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